

CLAIM AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Currently amended): A combination beverage pot and warming surface having a beverage pot suitable for retaining a liquid beverage therein and a base, and a warming surface having a retaining ridge circumscribing said beverage pot base, said warming surface providing a source of heat which couples with said beverage pot base for maintaining said liquid beverage at a temperature elevated with respect to a surrounding ambient temperature, wherein the improvement comprises a spacer between one portion of said beverage pot base and said warming surface to elevate a majority of said beverage pot base above and separate from said warming base while tilting said beverage pot base relative to said warming surface, a minority of said beverage pot base in direct contact with said warming base, said spacer defined by a thickness less than an elevation of said retaining ridge elevation so said beverage pot base remains retained within said retaining ridge while said spacer remains between said beverage pot base and said warming surface.

2 (Original): The combination beverage pot and warming surface of claim 1 wherein said spacer further comprises a wedge defined by a thickness generally decreasing with decreasing distance from a center of said beverage pot base.

3 (Original): The combination beverage pot and warming surface of claim 2 wherein said wedge further comprises a rectangular outline from top plan view.

4 (Original): The combination beverage pot and warming surface of claim 2 wherein said wedge further comprises insignia upon a surface.

5 (canceled)

6 (Original): The combination beverage pot and warming surface of claim 1 wherein said spacer further comprises stamped metal.

7 (Currently amended): A coffee serving apparatus comprising:

a liquid retaining pot having a base and side walls and retaining a liquid therein;

a heating base providing thermal energy adequate to elevate said liquid retaining pot and any liquid retained therein at a temperature elevated with respect to ambient;

a means rising from said heating base for retaining said liquid retaining pot base in a horizontal plane relative to said heating base; and

a means to tilt said liquid retaining pot with respect to said heating base while maintaining said liquid retaining pot base in point contact with said heating base, said retained liquid pooled to a maximum depth adjacent said point contact, said tilting means rising from said heating base less than said retaining means.

8 (Original): The coffee serving apparatus of claim 7 wherein said tilting means further comprises a wedge defined by a thickness generally decreasing with decreasing distance from a center of said

liquid retaining pot base.

9 (Original): The coffee serving apparatus of claim 7 wherein said tilting means further comprises visible insignia.

10 (canceled)

11 (Original): The coffee serving apparatus of claim 7 wherein tilting means supports a minority portion of said liquid retaining pot.

12 (Currently amended): A method for extending the serving life of a warm beverage held within a pot having a generally planar bottom parallel, adjacent with and warmed upon a generally planar surface, said warming surface having a retaining ridge for locating and retaining said pot bottom stable on said warming surface, comprising the steps of:

placing a spacer upon said warming surface in a location offset from center with respect thereto and protruding from said warming surface less than said retaining ridge;

supporting a minority portion of said pot bottom upon said spacer and a second minority portion of said pot bottom upon said surface, a majority portion of said pot bottom spaced from but adjacent and elevated with respect to said warming surface; and

heating said warming surface above ambient to form an air blanket about said pot through thermally induced air convection currents.

13 (Original): The method for extending the serving life of a warm beverage of claim 12, further comprising the step of selectively removing and cleaning said spacer.

14 (Original): The method for extending the serving life of a warm beverage of claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

selectively removing said pot from said warming surface and said spacer; and
dispensing said warm beverage.